

Recruitment from Lung Cancer Screening to a COPD clinical trial

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Introduction

- Clinical trial recruitment in COPD is challenging for multiple reasons, including mismatch between location of COPD care and clinical trial expertise.
- Lung Cancer Screening (LCS) offers a way of reaching more patients who are already showing willingness to engage with healthcare.
- We report the response rate and characteristics of individuals with self-reported COPD invited to an interventional COPD trial through LCS.

Methods

Eligibility criteria for SUMMIT LCS study (NCT03934866), assessed by screening questionnaire:

- Age 55-77
- Current or former smokers
- High risk for lung cancer according to either USPSTF or PLCO risk thresholds

Invitation letters were posted to individuals with COPD who met age, spirometry and BMI requirements of an interventional study.

Email and telephone contact details for the interventional study team were included in the letters.

Individuals who were interested contacted the trials team by telephone or email and entered a pre-screening process.

Results

- 473 invitation letters were sent by post.
- 98 (21%) responses were received (84 by telephone and 14 by email).
- Table 1 shows differences in characteristics between those who did and did not respond.
- Individuals with fewer years of formal education were less likely to respond.

Table 1. Characteristics of those who did and did not respond to clinical trial invitations

	Responded n=98	Did not respond n=374	p-value
Age in years (median, IQR)	67 (62-71)	67 (62-71)	0.73
Sex			
Male	59 (60%)	208 (56%)	0.42
Smoking history			
Current smoker	46 (47%)	175 (47%)	0.98
Pack years (median, IQR)	45 (34-57)	47 (35-59)	0.85
Ethnicity			0.24
White	89 (90%)	337 (90%)	
Black	<5 (2%)	10 (3%)	
Asian	7 (7%)	14 (4%)	
Mixed	0 (0%)	10 (3%)	
Other	0 (0%)	<5(1%)	
Education status			<0.001
Finished school at or before 15	33 (34%)	195 (52%)*	
Completed GCSEs	20 (20%)	94 (25%)	
Completed A levels	13 (13%)	27 (7%)	
Further education but no degree	10 (10%)	22 (6%)	
Bachelor's degree	13 (13%)	28 (7%)	
Further degree (Masters/PhD)	9 (9%)*	8 (2%)	

Discussion

- A significant proportion of individuals responded when invited to a COPD trial through LCS, which is encouragingly comparable to other methods of community recruitment (1).
- Invitation through LCS is a novel and effective way of extending the reach of recruitment to COPD trials and should be considered in other diseases.
- However, the generalisability of findings and implementation of this recruitment mechanism in an NHS LCS programme require further research, with particular focus on increasing responses in individuals with lower educational attainment.